GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:16
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
EMPOWERMENT OF STATES FOR CLEARANCE OF PROJECTS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of irrigation and other developmental projects under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are lying pending with the Union Government for clearance for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number of projects cleared or returned to the State Governments on one pretext or the other during the above period;

(d) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be cleared;

(e) whether the Government propose to empower the State Governments to clear irrigation and other developmental projects involving 5 hectares of forest land; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 16 REGAF `EMPOWERMENT OF STATES FOR CLEARANCE OF PROJECTS` DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.7.2001.

(a) to (c) More than 3500 proposals for irrigation and developmental projects have been submitted by various State Governments during 1998 to June, 2001under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for forestry clearance. A detailed list of all projects will be lengthy and cumbersome. A brief abstract of this information indicating their present status, State-wise is annexed.

(d) About 4.4% proposals are under process with the Ministry for final decision. The Ministry is committed to clear all such proposals, which are complete in all respects within 90 days. About 14.8% proposals are incomplete and no decision could be taken on these proposals as wanting details have been sought from the State Governments. As such no time limit can be fixed for clearance of these projects.

(e) and (f) In view of a public interest litigation WP(C) No. 202/95 which is going on in the Supreme Court in which implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the State Governments is one of the main issues under review, it would not be advisable to amend the Act for the time being.

ANNEXURE IN RESPECT OF PART (a) to (c) OF THE STATEMENT TO REPLY OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTIC 16 BY SHRI NARESH PUGLIA REGARDING `EMPOWERMENT OF STATES FOR CLEARANCE OF PROJECTS` DU REPLY ON 23.7.2001.

STATE NO. OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED SANCTI-ONED REJEC-TED
REJECTED FOR WANT OF INFORMATION RETURNED/ WITHDRWAN BY STATES
UNDER CONSIDERATION OF MINISTRY WANTING DETAILS SOUGHT FROM THE STATES

Assam 52 19 24 0 3 6 0
Arunachal Pr. 24 17 0 0 0 4 3
Andhra Pradesh 88 46 24 5 1 2 10
A N Island 18 12 0 0 0 0 6

Bihar	14	7	1	0	2	1	3
D N H	78	55	0	0	1	1	21
Gujarat	314	224	4	4	7	9	66
Haryana	172	132	4	9	0	4	23
H P	222	99	9	40	6	6	62
Manipur	3	2	0	0	1	0	0
Meghalya	15	14	0	0	1	0	0
Mizoram	8	4	0	0	0	2	2
Chandigarh	11	7	0	0	0	1	3
Delhi	7	1	0	0	1	0	5
Goa	11	5	1	0	0	2	3
Punjab	489	323	6	28	5	11	116
Orissa	99	54	4	4	5	9	23
M P	142	69	38	6	8	6	15
Maharashtra	372	211	40	7	6	47	61
Rajasthan	137	78	7	8	15	16	13
Karnataka	117	52	19	13	3	7	23
Kerala	33	23	1	2	1	1	5
Tamil Nadu	63	51	3	3	0	1	5
Tripura	83	74	3	0	3	1	2
Sikkim	14	13	0	0	0	1	0
West Bengal	10	5	2	0	0	1	2
Uttar Pradesh	120	86	2	3	12	3	14
Uttaranchal	762	654	23	19	29	7	30
Chhattisgarh	25	21	1	0	0	1	2
Jharkhand	35	14	1	8	1	6	5
TOTAL	3538	2372	217	159	111	156	523